

Good morning,

I am writing regarding the ZBA meeting last night on traffic at the 55 Summer St Development. I have been very vocal about this project so far and plan to attend Thursday's meeting. I have also CC'd Judi on this email because I attended her presentation on 40B months ago, it gave me a lot of good insight, and I noticed that she was on last night's meeting.

Unfortunately, I have so much to say. I am horrified by this project in so many ways, but last night was a real eye opener to how arrogant and selfish the Developer is with no regard for any residents who will be living in his complex, nor for those who already live there. His portrayal of traffic was HIGHLY inaccurate and extremely misleading. He said multiple times that many things were not in his "purview", however, it's the obligation of Walpole and my duty as a resident to make sure citizens opinions aren't disregarded. I will not stand back and allow this Development to be built as is. There are almost 1000 residents in Walpole, not only in South Walpole, who feel the same, and who have attended every single meeting, written letters to ZBA, Conservation Commission, to Mass Housing and to our State Reps. We will do everything we can to not allow a project this dense in size to be built, especially the way it's being presented now.

This Development severely compromises the character of South Walpole and poses a number of safety issues. I am blown away that the State would allow something like this to be built in the location where it's going.

I applaud every single member of the ZBA and our peer reviewers for asking insightful questions last night and for giving the Developer exceptional feedback. Everything you said was accurate, and portrays what residents are feeling. Please see my detailed comments below:

1. David Hale turned 4 single family homes into 8 duplexes. Now instead of housing 4 families, he's housing 8 families, further adding to the quantity of residents who will be living there, how many pedestrians will be added, and how many cars will be increased, making the traffic situation worse.
2. I stated this in a previous email, but per the traffic report, traffic counts were only observed on a 2 day period. 2 days doesn't accurately portray what happens here the rest of the 363 days in the year. It certainly doesn't account for Gilette events, and this is more than simply football games. This is a number of events including summer concerts and more. David Hale may think he can wash his hands of the Gilette traffic situation but the police would certainly disagree as they have to come here to do detail for nearly every event. All residents of South Walpole would also disagree, you do not move into South Walpole without acknowledging the traffic issues and you certainly do not building a massive 300 unit development without addressing those issues.
3. Kenneth Cram (their traffic person) severely underestimated traffic safety issues in this area. The numbers he was showing on the screen from their analysis revealed an F. An F! Then he talked it upped into a C. How can they/we accurately rely on an analysis that they are so quick to change the results of when it did not result in their favor? He has no idea what actually goes on here daily. Cars do NOT travel 25 mph on these roads they speed down the street. I walk my kids to school every single day to Boyden, and we used to attend South Walpole preschool. I'm also an avid runner in this area. In the second traffic study that Omni did, they caught a near accident on one of their traffic study videos. I remember vividly. I had literally just crossed the street with my 5 years old, and right behind us, two cars almost crashed into one another. This was all caught in the study. These types of near accidents

happen on a weekly basis. Can we request a copy of those traffic study videos? I guarantee you will see that near miss, and it'll prove the cars that speed down those streets and how difficult it already is for walkers.

4. The peak times of their studies was dead wrong. Boyden School starts at 8:25 BUT first bell is 8:15, therefore, the majority of people walking and driving is from 7:45 - 8:30. Buses go earlier. Also, Omni failed to mention South Walpole preschool that also hosts at least 100 children on top of Boyden's approximate 400. Another caveat not mentioned last night was school pick up, which is a nightmare. Omni listed their peak from 4:30-5:30 pm, that's simply not the case around here. Peak time surrounding school pick up should be considered, which is 2-3:15. I also need to mention this important fact. Boyden is on a rotation for start times and end times. In 2 years, by the time Cedar Crossing could be built, Boyden School drop off will be 8:45 (school start 8:55), this coincides with Preschool drop off of 8:45-9 am. There will be 500 kids plus more once the Development goes in, being dropped off around those times. That traffic circle in South Walpole will be horribly affected, I'm not even sure where cars will go. The flow will surely go to Route 1, as there are times the Boyden traffic already flows down Water St, close to Papa Ginos.

5. He mentioned that there were ONLY 7 walkers that cross the intersection of Water/Washington St Ext. While that may be true, my family is part of those 7 walkers, and our lives matter, even though he thinks they don't. It doesn't matter if there's 7 walkers or there's 100 walkers. We deserve the right to be safe, and adding 300 - 600 more cars to that intersection on a daily basis certainly doesn't make us, nor anyone who will be walking to school from that complex, any safer. I could remind David Hale that kids don't walk to school that much already because it's NOT that safe for them to walk.

6. The Developer is extremely hypocritical about the Kraft Foxboro train. In advertising his complex he states that it'll be "walkable" to the train station at Gillette. But then on the flip side he mentioned last night that the train won't be an issue because it'll be stopped until Spring. He can't have it both ways, say it's a non issue, and then advertise his complex as being next to a train station. That's extremely misleading. He needs to address the train regardless, we have no idea if it'll start up again or not. The freight train is still active.

7. Rapid flashing signs were mentioned a number of times last night. I live in this area, and there already are rapid flashing stop signs. There's one close to Boyden and one at the South Walpole Common. They do NOT help the safety issues. I assure you, as someone who walks their family to school every single day, and have for nearly 5 years, the signs do NOTHING to stop speeders and do nothing to help pedestrians. I have begged the police over the past 4 years or so for a stop sign to be installed where the crosswalk is at the church corner so that cars actually stop and not speed through the crosswalk. I filed a few traffic reports that they probably still have on hand. They said a stop sign would not be feasible as it would force traffic back onto route 1. Something has to be done. The crosswalks don't do much to help. Cars often can't even see us in the road because they're going so fast. Flashing stop signs are useless.

8. Our peer reviewer was spot on when he said cars would be swerving around the train track to get into the complex if there were cars backed up. People make crazy moves all the time when traffic gets built up, especially for Gillette events. I can't tell you how many times they'll swerve around other cars, try to back up and go down side streets. I can only imagine what'll happen with cars trying to get around the train track to avoid waiting.

9. I am not familiar with how a MEPA review works but if it's something that will give Walpole more assurance that this complex will be safe, then I am hoping this can be done.

10. At one point it was suggested that the South Walpole Common could be turned into a roundabout. This simply cannot happen. South Walpole is enriched in history, and the residents who live here won't allow that Common to be ripped up and turned into a horrible rotary, thus making it even more dangerous for walkers to cross. That Common is beloved and is used by the Boyden 3rd grade to plant a beautiful flower garden with their families every single year. Whatever Omni decides, we as residents won't allow anyone to touch that Common and certainly won't allow it to be turned into a Rotary. Whatever it takes to protect that Common, we will do.

Finally, the Developer made it pretty clear last night that he doesn't care about anything not in his purview. . He is building 300 units to host 300 families and he certainly better care for their safety and well being. It's very clear that he does not care about the current residents of South Walpole. This Development won't be safe in any which way, shape or form, built at 300 units.

If there is anything we can do to have this complex downsized, I am begging you, please try. If there is anything we can do as residents, we are willing to do it. This has nothing to do with affordable housing and everything to do with a massive complex coming in that will ruin our wonderful, small and historical Community.

Thank you so much for your time,

Erica Burdon